

Attorney Docket No. DEN226

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

TITLE OF THE INVENTION:

Kit for Updating a Digital Data Processing System.

CROSS-REFERENCES:

None.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION:

This invention relates to a kit for updating a digital data processing system such that a computer or PC can make direct use of the keyboard to integrate a non-existent supplementary symbol such as, for example, the euro currency symbol.

The use of the euro went into effect at the beginning of 1999. At present, however, the currency unit, which is represented by a symbol (just as the dollar or pound), does not exist on computer systems. Whether used for typing, accounting, trade, or correspondence, the only method of transcribing this symbol is to write it manually or incorporate a complex representation.

The invention provides a means for a very simple modification, which, once made, will modify or extend the computer system to make the aforementioned

supplementary function resident, and notably simplify the ability to update all existing machines at a given moment as, for example, the implementation of the euro.

According to the invention, this objective will be realized by means of a software medium on which is recorded the updating software that will enable use of the supplementary symbol through a key, and an interchangeable key that will additionally bear the representation of the supplementary symbol.

#### **DRAWINGS:**

None.

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

Through the addition of a software module to the digital data processing system software or as an add-on to the operating system, along with the replacement of a physical key on the keyboard, all devices will then be provided with a function enabling them, through a simple keystroke, to print the supplementary symbol such as, for example, the euro. The modification occurs only once and becomes resident within the machine.

Keyboards for digital systems are provided with keys that have multiple functions. Pressing a key prints a number or symbol; a combination of keys (for example, Caps + key or Alt + key, etc.) can be variously interpreted.

Computer keyboards have one to four functions per key. When we wish to reproduce a supplementary symbol as, for example, the euro, we dedicate an unassigned key (for example, key "1" or key "^") to the supplementary symbol. The euro character

is then situated on the assigned key. The operator can be presented with several possible choices when the computer system is updated.

The update procedure takes place as follows:

From the patent of choices offered, the operator selects the position assigned to the euro symbol, or any other supplementary symbol to be reproduced by the system. The operator inserts the software medium, which can be a floppy diskette, CD-ROM, file transfer, or other, and launches the software updating routine. The operator mechanically removes the assigned key and replaces it with the new one of the same format, which incorporates, in addition to the symbols for the assigned key, an engraving or other representation of the euro symbol. The operator then reboots the computer system and the new key function is available and resident.

The invention can be sold in the form of a kit consisting of the software medium for updating the software of a computer system and a plastic, or other, molded key that has been engraved with the supplementary symbol for updating the system's hardware level. This kit can be distributed as a separate subassembly.

The software stored on the software medium operates as follows:

It comprises a universal keyboard driver or one that can be configured for the brand of hardware to be updated. The driver interprets the new function. It is suggested that the new symbol be used the way ASCII codes are used, without however being limited to such use. An available character label (for example, CHR (32) or extension that can be added to the current table) will be used. In this way, not only the keyboard but also software applications will be able to make direct use of the euro character in the form of a symbol.

This invention can be used for, without being restricted to, applications for updating existing hardware, whether or not they are in use, as well as new machines that have yet to be produced. The invention can be made available for all operating systems and all brands of hardware, as well as all types of keyboards used for digital systems.

I claim, as my invention: